

# HAND-BOOK

OF THE

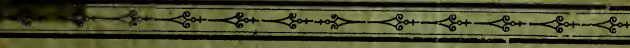
## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

Southern Pines, North Carolina.

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1895.

HARRELL'S PRINTING HOUSE,  
WELDON, N. C.





*"The Church of the Living GOD, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth."—I Tim., 3, 15.*

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*In Essentials of Religion—Unity.*  
*In Non-Essentials—Liberty.*  
*In All Things—Charity.*

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WELDON, N. C.

## PRESENT OFFICERS.

PASTOR:

REV. G. R. RANSOM.

DEACONS:

C. D. TARBELL,                      G. A. WOODARD,  
R. M. COUCH.

TRUSTEES:

C. D. TARBELL, Chairman; L. S. JOHNSON,  
R. M. COUCH.

CLERK:

IRVING L. HAMLIN.

TREASURER:

WM. J. STUART.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL:

G. A. WOODARD.

## ORGANIZATION.

April 5, 1895, a few persons interested in forming a Congregational church in Southern Pines, met at the residence of Mr. C. D. Tarbell. The matter was freely discussed and a sentiment decidedly favoring such a movement was manifest, and about twenty persons were reported as ready to unite in it. Subsequent meetings evinced, yet more, the spontaneous feeling that such organization was practicable, and would meet a long felt want in the community. Articles of Faith, Covenant, Rules and Declarations were carefully considered, and the organization completed on the part of the people by the election of officers April 24th. A council of Congregational ministers had been called by letters missive for April 27th, and convened accordingly at the Central House. The members were Rev. F. P. Woodbury, D.D., of New York city; Rev. A. W. Curtis, D.D., of Raleigh, N. C.; Rev. Josiah Tyler, D.D., (40 years missionary of A. B. C. F. M., in Natal Africa) now of St Johnsbury, Vt., and Rev. C. C. Collins, Troy, N. C. The council reviewed the proceedings of the new church and voted to heartily approve the same. April 28, (Sabbath), the church was duly recognized by the council in public exercises in the Episcopal church, Rev. Dr. Woodbury preaching the sermon. Other parts by Drs. Curtis and Tyler, Revs. G. R. Ransom and C. C. Collins. Thus the first church organization of Southern Pines became a reality.

## AS A CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST,

*Associated in accordance with New Testament teaching, for the public worship of God ; the observance of gospel ordinances ; for mutual edification and encouragement ; and the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, we adopt, as a fair representation of the more important truths of the Bible the following,*

### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

#### I.

We believe there is one only living and true God ; revealed in the Scriptures as (subsisting in three persons), the Father, Son and Holy Ghost ; self existent and infinite in every perfection, the Creator, preserver and governor of the universe.

#### II.

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were written by " Holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

#### III.

We believe in the universal sinfulness and ruin of our race, and that all men unless renewed by the Holy Ghost, are alienated from God, and under the condemnation of the Divine Law.



## IV.

We believe that Jesus Christ having taken upon himself our nature, has by his sufferings and death made an atonement for the sins of the world, and that whosoever repents and believes on him will be pardoned and saved.

## V.

We believe that the children of God are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, and that a renewed heart will evince itself in the various acts and duties of an obedient and holy life.

## VI.

We believe in the Divine Institution of the Christian Church; the Christian Sabbath; the Gospel Ministry; the Sacraments of Baptism, and the Lord's Supper—That Baptism is to be administered to none but believers and their households, and the Lord's Supper to be received by his disciples.

## VII.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead; a final judgment, the issues of which are eternal life and everlasting punishment.

(Here Baptism is to be administered). To those baptised in childhood, the minister shall say, "You now accept the baptism then received as a sign of your present faith, and seal of your covenant with God. (Then should Baptism be administered to those who have not been baptised.)

## COVENANT.

DEARLY BELOVED :-

Believing it to be your duty to profess Christ before men, you do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, avouch the Lord God to be your God and portion forever; Jesus Christ your only hope, and the Holy Spirit as your sanctifier, guide and comforter. You consecrate all your powers to His service and glory, and relying upon the aid of the Holy Spirit, you promise to walk in the statutes and ordinances of the Lord; to assemble with His people for worship; to keep holy the Sabbath day; to contribute of your means for the support of the Church, and to honor your high calling by a life of piety towards God and benevolence to man. Accepting them, according to the measure of your understanding of it, the system of Christian truth held by the churches of our faith and order, and by this Church, into whose fellowship you now enter, you join with ancient saints, with the Church throughout the world, and with us, your fellow believers; and covenant to walk and work with us in brotherly love and faithfulness; to submit to our government and discipline, and to strive for the purity, peace and edification of this Church.

All this, you now promise and engage.



And now, beloved in the Lord, let it be impressed upon you, that you have entered into solemn obligations from which you can never escape. Wherever you go, these vows will follow you; they will abide with you forever. You can never be as you have been. If you walk worthy of your profession, you will be a comfort and credit to us; but if otherwise, an occasion of grief and reproach. But we are persuaded better things of you, though we thus speak.

(Then should rise those who unite with the Church by letter. To them the Minister shall say: "Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, you do now renew your consecration, and join with us cordially in our faith and covenant.)

We therefore as a Church (the members rising), do affectionately receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessings of the gospel, and promise to treat you with Christian affection; to watch over you with tenderness, and to pray the great Head of the Church, that he will help you to fulfil this solemn Covenant.

Now, unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God, our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen!

(Here the Pastor extends the right hand of fellowship to the candidates.)

## RULES AND DECLARATIONS.

### I.

This Church shall be called the First Congregational Church of Southern Pines, N. C.

### II.

While we claim and will exercise the right of self government, and recognize no ecclesiastical authority outside of the membership, but that of Christ, the Supreme Head of the Church, we yet recognize the duty and privilege of communion and fellowship with sister churches, also of seeking and extending sympathy and co-operating with them in all suitable ways.

### III.

The officers of this Church shall be a Pastor or stated supply ; three Deacons ; three Trustees, a Clerk and a Treasurer ; also a Superintendent of the Sabbath School, nominated by the school and elected by the Church. The Trustees, Clerk and Treasurer shall make full reports at each annual meeting

### IV.

The Pastor, or stated supply, shall be elected when a vacancy occurs. He shall perform the usual duties and have the usual privileges of Pastors, or stated supplies of Congregational churches.

## V.

One Deacon shall be elected for three years at each annual meeting. The Deacons shall aid in the administration of the Lord's Supper; assist and counsel with the Pastor in spiritual matters, and in the absence of the Pastor, provide a supply for the pulpit, unless otherwise provided by the Church.

## VI.

One Trustee shall be elected for three years, (or until his successor is chosen) at each annual meeting. Two of the Trustees shall be members, but when deemed expedient one may be chosen who is not a church member. The Trustees shall hold and control the church property in trust; institute means to raise the Pastor's salary, and all expenses; superintend the finances, and exercise a general oversight of its business affairs.

## VII.

The Clerk, Treasurer, and Sabbath School Superintendent, shall be elected annually, and their duties be those usually devolving upon such officers.

## VIII.

In all meetings, all members in good and regular standing, who have reached twenty-one (21) years of age shall be equally entitled to vote.

In all matters of discipline, we believe and accept the rules laid down by the Saviour in Matt., 18th Chapter, verses 15, 16, 17, to be an infallible guide when applied in a Christian spirit to any offending the Church, or individuals.

### MEMBERSHIP.

Persons desiring admission into this Church by profession, shall make the wish known to the Pastor or Deacons, who shall jointly constitute a committee to examine said persons as to their Christian character, and report to the Church; and having been publicly propounded for one week, the candidates may be received to membership by vote of the Church, and by public assent to the Articles of Faith and Covenant. The one week's notice may be waived when circumstances render it expedient.

All persons presenting letters from fellowship churches within one year from their date, may be received at any regular conference or business-meeting, by assenting to the Articles of Faith and Covenant without examination.

Persons asking letters of dismissal, they shall be granted, if in good and regular standing. Any person holding a letter of dismissal, unused elsewhere, shall be amenable to the Church, but shall not vote at any of its meetings.

## MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the Church, shall be held on the second (2nd) Thursday of January, notice of which shall be given on the previous Sabbath. Should circumstances prevent such meeting on said day, it may be held on any succeeding day, provided, such Sabbath notice is given.

Special meetings for business may be called by the officers, or any seven (7) members, provided, notice has been given the preceding Sabbath.

Officers shall be elected by ballot, without nomination, and all elections constituted by a majority of members present and voting.

Vacancies may be filled at any business meeting, if notice is given the preceding Sabbath.

The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated on the first Sabbath of January, April, July and October. A preparatory service and an experience meeting shall be held on the Saturday preceding such commemoration ; together with the transaction of any church business, if a previous Sabbath notice has been given.

The order of all business meetings shall be as follows ;

- I. Prayer.
- II. Reading of the minutes of last meeting.
- III. Reports of officers and committees.
- IV. Miscellaneous business.
- V. Adjournment.

These rules may be altered or amended at any regular business meeting; provided, one week's notice has been given, and by a two-third ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the members present.

## ROLL OF MEMBERS.

(UNITED BY LETTER.)

Chas. D. Tarbell  
 Elmira F. Tarbell  
 Retyre M. Couch  
 Sarah G. Couch  
 Anna M. Foster  
 Lusias S. Johnson  
 Lucena S. Gould  
 Ellen A. Pond  
 Mary A. Cobb  
 George R. Ransom  
 Louise M. Young  
 Mary A. Perry  
 Carrie E. Wiggin  
 Sadie Bilyeu  
 Wm. J. Stuart

Hattie E. Stuart  
 Geo. A. Woodard  
 Fannie E. Woodard  
 Thomas E. Wiggin  
 Badger H. Burroughs  
 Mrs. Susan Swett  
 Mrs. A. E. Rockwell  
 A. W. Smith  
 Anna B. Smith  
 Carrie C. Thomas  
 Agnes R. Thomas  
 Arthur J. Thomas  
 Mrs. S. N. Whipple  
 Mrs. M. A. Beard  
 Ward B. Eastman  
 Jennie M. Eastman



## ROLL OF MEMBERS CONTINUED.

(UNITED BY CONFESSION.)

Irving L. Hamlin	Edward D. Perry +
Eda Belle Hamlin	Smith S. Thomas
+ Daniel W. Lowell	Mrs. L. W. Dixon +
	Everett G. Couch

1896

G. B. Kitchell

F. S. Kitchell

F. B. Kitchell

James M. Richardson

Mrs Mary E. Richardson

Edith H. Ruggles

Henry G. Knight

Mrs F. Fannie Knight

Miss Sarah Knight

Cornelia G. Saunders

Arthur G. Saunders

Geo. St. Quimby

Leslie P. Ruggles

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As this little book falls under the eye of each member of the church, let it be a fresh reminder of covenant duties and privileges, and the point of new resolutions to do what *we* can to promote our manifold church interests. Our usefulness as an organization largely depends upon the consecrated activities of each. Let us anticipate its meetings and services, and endow them with our prayers, and observe a regular attendance thereon. May we more fully take the cause for which the Church stands on our hearts and determine to bear some larger part in promoting Christianity in the community where we live. With constant reliance upon the Holy Spirit to show us what to do, and how to do it, let us at the same time watch for opportunities to speak the Christian word, and thus evince to all that we have been learners in the "School of Christ."

"So let our lips and lives express,  
The Holy Gospel we profess;  
So let our works and virtues shine  
And prove the doctrine all divine."

BRIEF OUTLINE OF RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF SOUTHERN PINES,  
N. C., AS GATHERED FROM THE OLDER RESIDENTS. -

The first sermon was by Rev. Jesse H. Page, a Methodist minister, who preached on the Easter Sabbath of 1887. The service was held in a partially erected structure, which is now the Central House. About this time a Union Sunday School was formed in a small building 12x16 that had been used for a printing office, which stood then (and is now seen) near the new store building recently erected by Mr. C. D. Tarbell. The school in its earlier history was held in several places, as seemed most convenient for the time, and with varying fortunes, found a home at last in the new School House on Bennett street. On the 17th of November, 1887, Rev. Robt. T. Thorne, an Episcopal Clergyman, arrived here and preached his first sermon at the Prospect House, to a larger audience than any one expected to see. Mr. Thorne held services at the Hotel at intervals during the fall and winter, and later united the Christian elements of the place in a Union Service held in the School House above mentioned. Mr. Thorne was a man of rare Christian spirit and beloved by all. Through his earnest and self-sacrificing efforts, the Episcopal Church was erected but he did not live to occupy it, his death occurring December 16, 1892. In the fall of 1891, Rev. A. A. Newhall, a Baptist

minister and returned missionary from India, came here for his wife's health. He preached the following summer in absence of Mr. Thorne who was North, and at Mr. Thorne's death carried on the work in the school house, until June, 1893, when the new Episcopal Church was occupied, Mr. Newhall continuing his services until the spring of 1894. The summer of 1894 Rev. F. P. Woodward supplied for a good portion of the time. Beginning in the fall and during the winter of 1894-5, Rev. G. R. Ransom, who had sought the milder skies of the pine belt, accepted an invitation to preach for the united movement. Episcopal services have been held from time to time since Mr. Thorne's decease, of late more particularly, by Dr. Petingier, of Raleigh. For several years the Pastors of the Mauley Baptist Church, Rev. W. F. Watson, Dr. N. B. Cobb and Rev. W. C. Newton, have in turn preached here, usually once a month. Mr. Watson's first service was in the Prospect House, and not long after the first sermon referred to preached by Mr. Page. The Methodists and others, have also held services at intervals during these years. This brings us to the formation of the Congregational Church, which was recognized by Council, April 28th, 1895.

MINISTERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SOUTHERN, INES, N. C.

1895 - 1900	George R. Ransom
1900 - 1903	Daniel M. Breckenridge
1903 - 1908	Herbert L. Foss
1908 - 1910	E. Willis Sanders
1911 - 1913	Samuel L. Holden
1918 - 1934	Elmer Willis Serf
1934 - 1937	C. Rexford Raymond
1937 - 1943	Voight O. Taylor
1943 - 1949	Tucker C. Humphries
1949 - 1952	Robert L. House
1953 - 1957	Welford C. Simmons
1957	Carl E. Wallace

